

APPROVED ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 2010

Members and Alternates Present: Dee Lacey, Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda, Dick Nock, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Eric Michielssen, R. Don Warden, Dave Pruitt, Charles Pritchard, Neal Roberts, Robert Lilley, Mary Bianchi

Absent Members: Bill Struble, Noah Small, Mark Pearce, Debra Garrison, Richard Quandt

Guests Present: Susan McDonald, Hearst Ranch; Richard Hawley & Elizabeth Johnson (potential candidates for the Environmental position on ALAB)

Staff: Michael Isensee, Agriculture Department; David Church, LAFCO

Call to Order: 6:06 PM. Quorum Present.

1. Open Comment: None

2. Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:

- Eric Michielssen: Pallet to Pallet at Dolphin Inn to benefit Food Bank.
- Chuck Pritchard: Flyer and handout on alternative review steps and new Upper Salinas Los Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) brochure. The RCD is prepared to assist landowners with permitting and has been granted the authority to review and approve a number of activities without requiring landowners from obtaining various permits from local and state agencies.
- Sept 28 **Slow the Water Workshop** from 9-11 AM at Varian Ranch in Parkfield. Event is hosted by University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and US-LT RCD.
- Central Coast Winegrowers, Central Coast Vineyard Team and Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance sponsored event on August 27 for public officials and others regarding water sustainability in vineyards and at wineries.
- Sept 30-Oct. 3 **Savor the Central Coast** held at Santa Margarita Ranch and numerous other locations throughout the county.
- Central Coast Winegrowers Association sponsored agricultural grading workshop with speakers from county, NRCS, and environmental engineering firm discussing erosion control.
- Sept 22 **Ranch Agtourism Workshop** to be held at Camatta ranch and sponsored by UCCE. Mary Bianchi will forward information.
- Written report provided by Agriculture Department.

3. Previous Minutes:

MOTION: Approve minutes as mailed: **Motion – Tom Ikeda. 2nd – Don Warden. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

4. LAFCO Ag Policies (David Church, LAFCO Executive Officer).

- Mr. Church discussed the membership of LAFCO, the distinction between spheres of

influence and annexations, the role of LAFCO in considering agricultural lands and resources when considering changes to the sphere of influence or annexations, how LAFCO approaches greenbelts, how the LAFCO prime farmland mitigation policy has been applied, and some of the distinctions between Community Services Areas, Community Services Districts, and incorporated communities.

- Spheres of influence are updated every 5 years and are intended to identify the logical community expansion areas over the following twenty years.
- In terms of the County's Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) Update, LAFCO will provide comments to the County. LAFCO's role is to consider public services including water, sewer, fire, and police but also the logical growth patterns. Mr. Church provided two handouts: LAFCO Powerpoint presentation and LAFCO Ag Policies.

5. Events Ordinance Revisions (Michael Isensee, Ag. Dept.)

- Chair Lacey introduced the item. Members discussed concerns including the following:
 - Insurance and indemnity requirements which could be costly, or insurance carriers may find untenable, and which create a precedent for the County to require such an indemnity requirement for other types of permits. Such a requirement places the property owner in a position where the County may settle litigation in a manner not in the property owner's interest.
 - It is not clear when the indemnity and insurance standards apply.
 - The purpose of the insurance/indemnity requirements is not clear.
 - ALAB would like clarity on when the Tax Collector is involved with a license for events, when the insurance/indemnity requirements apply, and the purpose of these requirements as they relate to events.
 - Events should be considered on a case by case basis (discretionary) as a one size fits all procedure does not work.
 - Setback distances from property lines are overly onerous for sites seeking to host events and are not always necessary. It depends upon what is located on the other side of the property line.
 - Additional waivers from the standards should be provided so farmers and ranchers or all private property owners could hold tours or educational events without meeting any standards or obtaining any type of permit or license.
 - Some members believed the Board requested that tours and education by private property owners, regardless of sponsorship, be exempt.
 - Why are standards necessary on sites where no neighboring properties would be affected? If you have no impact on any resource you should be able to be exempt from the event standards.

- Could neighbor notification only apply from the edge of the event site rather than from the edge of the site (property line)?
- The definition of events remains unclear as to what types of private events are private gatherings or are governed by the ordinance. The definition needs to be fixed so that it is clear that private events are not regulated.
- Some winery owners believe that this proposal which grants a large number of ministerial events on a single site would cut into the winery events which can only occur once a site has obtained a discretionary permit.
- Does the proposed level of ministerial events comply with Agriculture Policy 6?

6. Recruitment for SLO County Agricultural Commissioner (Bob Lilley)

- Commissioner/Sealers work for both the State and County. At the State level the Commissioner/Sealer is the local arm of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). A commissioner/sealer requires 18 different licenses. Half of the Department's money comes from the state. The Commissioner primarily enforces state laws and regulations and is responsible for submitting monthly reports to DPR and CDFA.
- The Board of Supervisors appoints the Commissioner/Sealer but must follow state code. The Board can only appoint from a list of eligible people; the current state list has 108 names including 52 current Commissioner/Sealers. Neither Brett Saum (Chief Deputy Sealer) or Brenda Ouwerkerk (Chief Deputy Commissioner) have all the licenses for Commissioner/Sealer job. Within the Department, only Marty Settevendemie is fully licensed. The first step is to decide whether to do an internal or statewide recruitment. The County Administrator and Human Resources Director are in charge of recruitment. If position is left vacant, Brenda and Brett will be acting heads in their respective fields. Brenda will be the Acting Department Head.

MOTION: ALAB is in favor of having agriculture industry involved in recruitment process for Agriculture Commissioner, keeping the Agriculture Department as an independent Department, and keeping Agriculture Department staffed for land use. **Motion – Lisen Bonnier. 2nd – Chuck Prichard. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

7. Upcoming Meeting: October 4, 6 PM.

Future Agenda Items: Events ordinance, Marty S.

Meeting adjourned: 8:21 PM. Respectfully submitted by Michael Isensee, County Agriculture Department.

TASKS

Letter to Board re: Agriculture Department recruitment

Letter to Planning re: Events